Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Construction projects are required to implement the stormwater best management practices (BMP) on this page, as they apply to your project, all year long.

Materials & Waste Management

- Broom and cover stockpiles of sand, dirt or other construction material with tarp when rain is forecast or if not actively being used within 7 days.
- Use (but don’t overuse) reclaimed water for dust control.

Hazardous Materials

- Label all hazardous materials and hazardous wastes (such as pesticides, paints, thinners, solvents, fuel, oil, and antifreeze) in accordance with city, county, state and federal regulations.
- Store hazardous materials and waste in water tight containers, store in appropriate secondary containment, and cover them at the end of every work day or during wet weather or when rain is forecast.
- Follow manufacturer’s application instructions for hazardous materials and be careful not to use more than necessary. Do not apply chemicals outdoors when rain is forecast within 24 hours.
- Arrange for appropriate disposal of all hazardous wastes.

Waste Management

- Cover waste disposal containers securely with tarp at the end of every work day and during wet weather.
- Check waste disposal containers frequently for leaks and to make sure they are not overfilled. Never hose down a dumpster on the construction site.
- Clean or replace portable toilets, and inspect them frequently for leaks and spills.
- Dispose of all wastes and debris properly. Recycle materials and wastes that can be recycled (such as asphalt, concrete, aggregate base materials, wood, gyp board, pipe, etc.)
- Dispose of liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids as hazardous waste.

Construction Entrances and Perimeter

- Establish and maintain effective perimeter controls and stabilize all construction entrances and exits to sufficiently control erosion and sediment discharges from site and tracking off site.
- Sweep or vacuum any street traffic immediately and secure sediment source to prevent further tracking. Never leave downs streets to clean up constantly.

Painting cleanup

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or surface waters.
- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible. Rinse to the sanitary sewer once you have gained permission from the local wastewater treatment authority. Never pour paint down a drain.
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible and clean with thinner or solvent in a proper container. Filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of residue and unusable thinner/solvents as hazardous waste.

Painting & Paint Removal

Concrete, Grout & Mortar

- Never hose down contaminated surfaces where paints have been used.
- Use dry cleanup methods (absorbent materials, cat litter, and/or rags).
- Use (but don’t overuse) reclaimed water for dust control.
- Contain spilled paint with a containment structure. Do not allow paint to track off site.
- Never hose down a dumpster on the end of every work day and during wet weather.

Concrete, Grout & Mortar Application

- Store concrete, grout and mortar under cover, on pallets and away from drainage areas. These materials must never reach a storm drain.
- Wash out concrete equipment/trucks offsite or in a contained area, so there is no discharge to the underlying soil or onto surrounding areas. Let concrete harden and dispose of as garbage.
- Collect the wash water from washing exposed aggregate concrete and remove it for appropriate disposal offsite.

Concrete, Grout & Mortar Application

- Avoid paving and seal coating in wet weather, or when rain is forecast before fresh pavement will have time to cure.
- Store storm drain inlets and manholes when applying seal coat, tack coat, slurry seal, fog seal, etc.
- Collect and recycle or appropriately dispose of excessive abrasive gravel or sand. Do NOT sweep or wash into gutters.
- Do not store waste to wash down fresh asphalt concrete pavement.

Dewatering

- Completely cover or barricade storm drain inlets when saw cutting. Use filter fabric, catch basin inlet filters, or gravel bags to keep slurry out of the storm drain system.
- Shovel, absorb, or vacuum saw-cut slurry and dispose of all waste as soon as you are finished in one location or at the end of each work day (whichever is sooner!).
- If sawcut slurry enters a catch basin, clean it up immediately.

Spill Prevention and Control

- Keep spill cleanup materials (rags, absorbents, etc.) available at the construction site at all times.
- Inspect vehicles and equipment frequently for and repair leaks promptly. Use drip pans to catch leaks until repairs are made.
- Clean up spills or leaks immediately and dispose of cleanup materials properly.
- Do not hose down surfaces where fluids have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods (absorbent materials, cat litter, and/or rags).
- Sweep up spill dry materials immediately. Do not try to wash them away with water, or bury them.
- Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.
- Report significant spills immediately. You are required by law to report all significant releases of hazardous materials, including oil. To report a spill: 1) Dial 911 or your local emergency response number, 2) Call the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Warning Center, (800) 852-7550 (24 hours).

Sawcutting & Asphalt/Concrete Removal

- Transfer excavated materials to dump trucks on the site, not in the street.
- Do not hose down areas where sawcut material is exposed to rainwater.
- Erosion Control
- Schedule grading and excavation work for dry weather only.
- Stabilize all disturbed areas, install and maintain temporary erosion controls (such as erosion control fabric or banded fiber matrix) until vegetation is established.
- Seed or plant vegetation for erosion control on slopes or where construction is not immediately planned.

Construction project materials may be liable for fines of up to $10,000 per day!